

Date Mailed
January 23, 2002

BEFORE THE
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

Investigation Into Midwest Natural Gas, Inc., Compliance
With Pipeline Safety Rules

3670-GI-102

NOTICE OF PREHEARING CONFERENCE

Prehearing Conference Date:	Tuesday, February 5, 2002 – 1:30 p.m.
Conference Location:	Public Service Commission, 610 North Whitney Way, Madison, WI

On September 14, 2001, the Commission issued a Notice and Summary Order of Investigation under Wis. Stat. §§ 196.02(1) and (6) and 196.28(1) relating to the safe construction and operation of natural gas facilities by Midwest Natural Gas, Inc., (MNG). Having considered the information obtained during the investigation, the Commission determines that sufficient grounds exist to warrant a hearing on the matters investigated and sets a time and place for a hearing under Wis. Stat. § 196.28(2).

NOTICE IS GIVEN that the Commission will hold a prehearing conference on Tuesday, February 5, 2002, at 1:30 p.m. in the Amnicon Falls Hearing Room at the Public Service Commission Building, 610 North Whitney Way, Madison, Wisconsin, and continuing at times to be set by the presiding Administrative Law Judge. This building is accessible to people in wheelchairs through the Whitney Way first floor (lobby) entrance. Parking for people with disabilities is available on the south side of the building. Any person with a disability who needs additional accommodations should contact the docket coordinator listed below.

The hearing will address at least two issues:

(1) Were MNG personnel and its contractors properly qualified and certified to carry out fusion work during the period July 2000 through April 2001?

(2) Did the fusions that were excavated and inspected as part of the Commission's investigation comply with the manufacturers' standards and the utility's procedures?

The prehearing conference is being held to: (1) identify issues; (2) determine the date and time for a hearing; (3) specify dates for filing testimony and exhibits; and (4) any other matters that will facilitate the hearing.

Docket 3670-GI-102

Midwest Natural Gas, Inc. is a party to this proceeding. Parties will be bound by the designation of issues and the schedule adopted at the prehearing conference. Persons who consider themselves to be potential parties should participate in the prehearing conference. Any person desiring to become a party shall file a request pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 227.44(2m) and Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 2.32(3) no later than 10 days from the date of this notice. The request shall be addressed to Administrative Law Judge David C. Whitcomb, Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, P.O. Box 7854, Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7854.

Depending on the outcome of the hearing, the Commission may issue orders requiring the safe construction and operation of MNG's natural gas distribution system to promote public safety pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 196.745(1)(a) or requiring other remedial action.

This is a Class 1 proceeding as defined in Wis. Stat. § 227.01(3)(a).

The Commission does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the provision of programs, services, or employment. Any person with a disability who needs accommodations to participate in this proceeding or who needs to obtain this document in a different format should contact the docket coordinator listed below.

Questions regarding this matter may be directed to docket coordinator Thomas Stemrich at (608) 266-2800.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, _____

By the Commission:

Lynda L. Dorr
Secretary to the Commission

KBC:dls:pr:ash:g:\notice\pending\3670-GI-102 Prehearing Conf.doc